

CLAIMS

1. A holder for supporting a series of drills in a vapour deposition chamber to allow a ceramic coating to be deposited regions of the drills extending from their tips, the holder having a hollow interior and at least one perforated outer wall provided with an array of apertures into which the drills can be inserted with said regions projecting outwards from the holder, within the hollow interior of the holder supports being provided for the inserted drills in the or each said wall for locating the drills with their shanks substantially parallel, and stop means for locating the tips of drills of the same diameter projecting to substantially the same extent from said outer wall.

15 2. A holder according to claim 1 wherein the stop means comprise a back wall in the interior of the holder, parallel to said outer wall.

20 3. A holder according to claim 2 wherein an inner wall is arranged between the outer and back walls and is provided with a corresponding array of apertures to said array in the outer wall for locating the drills with their shanks parallel.

4. A holder according to any one of claims 1 to 3 having a polygonal outer periphery, said at least one

outer wall forming at least one face of said periphery.

5. A holder for supporting a series of drills in a vapour deposition chamber to allow a ceramic coating to be deposited on regions of the drills extending from their tips, the holder having a hollow interior enclosed by hexagonal plan form outer walls, alternative walls of said hexagonal plan form being perforated with an array of apertures into which the drills can be inserted with said regions projecting outwards from the holder, means being provided within the hollow interior of the holder for supporting the drills with their shanks substantially parallel and with the tips of drills of the same diameter projecting to substantially the same extent from each outer wall.

15 6. A holder according to claim 5 wherein, parallel to each outer wall a perforated inner wall is arranged, said inner wall having a corresponding array of apertures to said array of apertures in the outer wall.

7. A holder according to claim 5 or claim 6 wherein, 20 within the hollow interior of the holder a back wall is disposed parallel to each said perforated outer wall for abutment with the inner ends of the inserted drills.

8. A holder according to any one of the preceding claims provided with a lid shielding the hollow interior

from above, said lid being provided with a passage for permitting gas flow between the interior and exterior of the holder.

9. A holder according to any one of the preceding

5 claims provided with means for stacking of the holder with a second holder having a corresponding outer wall configuration.

10. A holder according to claim 8 having top and

bottom faces for abutment together whereby the two corresponding holders can be supported one on the other, and a flange projecting over said abutment of the faces for providing a closure for the joint between the abutting surfaces.

15. A method of vapour-deposition coating the tips of

a series of drills in which the drills are inserted in a hollow holder having a polygonal plan form with the tips to be coated projecting from at least one outer face of said polygonal form, the holder with the inserted tips being rotated in a vapour deposition chamber to allow each of the drill tips to project from the holder towards the periphery of the chamber for at least a part of the processing period, and a gas admitted to the chamber after deposition of the coating being allowed to circulate through the hollow interior of the holder.